LPG outlets and petrol pumps in NER

2787. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allot more LPG outlets and petrol pumps in the North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the location-wise details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that, from the previous approved marketing plans, 61 locations for LPG distributorships and 53 locations for Retail Outlet dealerships are pending for commissioning in the North Eastern States. In order to provide commercial freedom to the Government Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), in the wake of the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) with effect from 1.4.2002, the Government have dissolved the Dealer Section Boards (DSBs). The selection of dealers/ distributors will now be undertaken by the OMCs themselves as per the policy to be formulated by them and approved by the Government.

Policy on Ethanol mixture

2788. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted the use of Sugarcane derived Ethanol mixed with petrol to be used as an automobile fuel, without engine modifications;

(b) whether a long term policy in terms of mix ratios, pricing, taxation and duty structure and conditions of sale has been announced; and

(c) whether Government have undertaken any research to carry-out engine modification to enable use of higher percentage of ethanol?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have taken a decision to mandatorily supply 5% ethanol